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Eerie Talk With
California NazisBy Paul Avery
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Glendale

It is an eerie experience to interview a Nazi leader while one of his storm-troopers—wearing a .38 caliber revolver tucked in a holster on his hip—walks around the room staring with sullen suspicion.

It becomes even more unnerving when you are told the man with the weapon wouldn't hesitate to use it, if necessary, to defend the Western Division Headquarters of the American Nazi party that has been established here.

Captain Ralph P. Forbes, sent here two years ago as the top-ranking Nazi in the Western United States, introduced the burly gun-bearer.

"That's Lieutenant Harry Blair... the man I'm going to send to San Francisco to head our operations there," Forbes said. "He's the duty officer today. That's why he's wearing the gun."

Forbes then explained matter-of-factly that a Nazi duty officer is under orders to be armed at all times "in case we're attacked."

Forbes proves something of a surprise to those who meet him for the first time. He looks nothing like most of the Hitler-philosophy followers interviewed by The Chronicle during its lengthy investigation of Nazi activities in California.

He is a handsome, husky 24-year-old ex-Marine Corps corporal with neatly trimmed brown hair and sparkling blue eyes that show no trace of the wildness of some of his cohorts.

He is happily married, has a son and a daughter, and is awaiting the birth of a third child in a few weeks.

His voice is soft, his vocabulary extensive, and his words well chosen.

But, as in the case of all Nazis, it is what he says that puts the stamp of the swastika on Forbes.

'CONVERSION'

He calmly talks of "peaceful... Constitutional... conversion" of America into a "National Socialist" government in one breath, and in the next, just as calmly, states:

"If I thought killing (the Reverend) Martin Luther King would solve the nigger problem I wouldn't hesitate to do it—or at least try—but I don't think it would accomplish anything but make a martyr out of him. Violence isn't the solution today. The solution is to ship all the niggers back to Africa."

Then he quickly added: "Don't get me wrong. I don't hate niggers. I have a friend here in Glendale who's a nigger—except I don't call him a nigger—I call him a 'good black man.' He doesn't want mixing of the races—which is a Jew-commie plot—any more than we (Nazis) do. That's why our solution to the nigger problem is the only solution."

This so-called "solution" is the brainchild of Commander George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi party, and is set forth in numerous propaganda tracts outlining the party's "program" when, as Rockwell has predicted, it takes

"control" of the U.S. government in 1972.

Rockwell's solution is to "convince" Negroes to voluntarily "migrate" to Africa. He stresses that "no Negroes will be forced to go."

"However, Negroes remaining in America will be rigidly segregated non-citizens," Rockwell's "solution" concludes.

Thus far, Forbes says, he has recruited more than 100 members.

"We realize we are not going to change the Nation or the world overnight," Forbes said. "But believe me... we will change it."

PICKETING

"We picket peacefully," Forbes said. "We don't look for trouble... but we are always ready for it."

"We are not pacifist non-violent creeps like the civil rights scum... we mind our own business—but if anyone starts a fight with us we fight back... and we fight well, believe me."

He concedes that the San Francisco unit is barely holding its own. He plans to send Blair there to bolster it.

"But it's a good thing we have Irwin up there," Forbes said. "He's keeping the unit together until we can send him assistance."

He was referring to Clyde Thomas Irwin, a 33-year-old senior at the University of California at Berkeley, who for several months has been serving as the party's area secretary and official spokesman.

Assisting Irwin in coordinating Bay Area Nazi activities is Stormleader Robert Martell. It is in Martell's room on Howard street that the secret Nazi meetings are held on Friday nights.

It is Irwin, however, who is keeping Nazism alive in Northern California, not Martell. And he is apparently doing a good job of it.

As far as Forbes and Rockwell are concerned, Irwin is "worth his weight in gold."

"I consider him one of the most valuable men in the Nazi movement anywhere in

America. He's got a brilliant mind and an articulate tongue.

"Irwin's an exception among all those niggers and Jews and commies and sex perverts that have taken over the University of California campus," Rockwell said.

"And Martell is loyal and dedicated," he added.

Rockwell was not aware when he heaped his "high praise" on Irwin and Martell that the pair have strange secrets they hope will remain hidden.

Tomorrow: The secrets of Clyde Thomas Irwin and Robert Martell.



CAPTAIN RALPH FORBES

'I'm no pacifist creep'